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**Description**

The invention relates to laminated articles and in particular to an appliqu  for applying to fabric garments and other textile substrates.

GB-A-2,010,123 describes a lining material, particularly for the interior lining of motor vehicle roofs and accessories. The roof lining material comprises a PVC calendered sheet, a layer of adhesive applied to an upper surface of the calendered sheet and fibres which may be flock onto the adhesive.

US-A-5,059,452 describes a flocked polyurethane fabric, wherein the possibility of selectively applying fibres of dissimilar colors to achieve consistency in color on flocked fabric is disclosed.

FR-A-2659094 describes an appliqu  comprising an adhesive polyvinylchloride material laminated onto a paper backing sheet which is then fully flock in a single colour flock material. The sheet and flock is then cut up into individual badges or motifs for application by high frequency welding to a textile substrate.

It is further known that the flock fibres may be screen printed, in the case of a multicoloured article, with desired colours to form a required badge or motif.

There are a number of problems with such conventional appliqu s. The main difficulty is the processing difficulty involved in screen printing a desired image onto the flock material. Different coloured inks are required which must be applied in a number of different stages and the badge thus formed must be cured at high temperature. Conventionally, the flock fibres are of rayon viscose (1.7 DTEX) 0.5mm flock which is adapted to receive the necessary screen printing ink. The abrasion resistance of the badge thus formed is often not satisfactory. Further, the colours in the badge are often not sufficiently stable in repeated machine washing of the garment to which the badge is applied. In addition, the fibres have a relatively rough feel and consequently often detract from the feel of the garment to which they are applied. The applied print has a stiff mounting handle on the fabric which also detracts from the product.

This invention is directed towards providing an appliqu  which will overcome at least some of these difficulties.

According to the invention there is provided an appliqu  comprising:-

- a base layer of plastics sheet material;
- an adhesive applied to one side of the base layer; and
- a layer of flock fibres on the adhesive;
- characterised in that said layer of flock fibres is a layer of predyed flock fibres which are flock onto the adhesive through a screen having openings for the flock fibres corresponding to at least portion of a de-

sired motif or pattern.

In one embodiment of the invention the flock fibres are of synthetic fibres, preferably polyamide fibre, most preferably of polyamide fibres (3.3 DTEX) 1mm. These fibres give a partially plush finish. In a preferred embodiment of the invention at least two and possibly several different coloured flock fibres are flock onto the adhesive. Preferably flock fibres of different colours are applied in sequential flocking steps. For ease of processing preferably the fibres are flock onto the adhesive in a desired motif or pattern through separate screens.

In a particularly preferred embodiment of the invention the appliqu  includes a support layer on which the base layer is supported. This assists in achieving dimensional stability. For ease of removal, preferably the base layer is peelably attached to the support layer. In a preferred embodiment of the invention the support layer is of stiff paper material or similarly adapted substrate.

In a preferred arrangement the adhesive is applied to the base layer only in the region to which the flock fibres are to be flock. Preferably the adhesive is applied to the base layer through a screen.

The flock receiving adhesive is selected to be compatible with both the flock fibres and the base material. Typically the adhesive is compatible with the polyamide fibres and polyvinylchloride film material.

Typically the base layer is of polyvinylchloride film material which is suitable for fixing to a fabric by high frequency welding.

The invention also provides a method of forming an appliqu  carrying a motif or badge to be applied to a fabric comprising the steps of:-

applying an adhesive to a base layer of plastics sheet material; and

flocking predyed flock fibres of one colour onto the adhesive through a screen having openings for the flock fibres corresponding to at least portion of a desired motif or pattern.

Preferably there are at least two different coloured flock fibres and the method includes flocking flock fibres of at least several colour flock fibres onto the adhesive in a desired sequence to form a desired coloured motif.

Preferably the adhesive is applied to the base layer only in the region to which the fibres are to be flock. Typically the adhesive is applied to the base layer through a screen.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the flock fibres are applied to the adhesive through a screen.

Typically there are at least two different coloured flock fibres which are applied to the adhesive in sequential flocking steps. Most preferably the coloured flock fibres are flock onto the adhesive through separate screens.

Preferably the method includes the step prior to applying the adhesive, of providing a support layer for the

thermoplastic base layer.

In one embodiment of the invention the adhesive is cured after application of the flock fibres.

The invention further provides a method of applying an appliqu  according to the invention to a fabric support comprising the step of:-

removing the support layer, if present, and welding the appliqu  to the fabric support by high frequency welding.

In a preferred arrangement the method further includes the step, prior to welding, of interposing a layer of foam or the like material between the base layer of the appliqu  and the fabric support.

The invention will be more clearly understood from the following description thereof given by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic cross sectional view of an appliqu  according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic cross sectional view illustrating the application of the article of Fig. 1; and

Figs. 3a to 3f are schematic drawings of various steps used in the method of the invention.

#### Example

To form an appliqu  in accordance with the invention high frequency weldable plastics such as polyvinylchloride sheet or film, having a thickness of between 0.15mm and 0.30 mm forming a base layer is applied onto a support layer, preferably by a flow process in which the PVC in a liquid form is applied to the support layer. The support layer in the preferred arrangement is of a stiff paper material which allows the plastic film to be easily peeled off the support layer after processing. Furthermore, the application of the PVC onto a support layer facilitates the subsequent processing of the product whilst maintaining the dimensional stability of the PVC when subjected to heating.

A layer of permanent adhesive is applied to the upper side of the base layer of polyvinylchloride film material. The adhesive is applied through a screen only to the area of the base layer on which a desired motif or badge is required. The adhesive is compatible with both polyamide fibres and PVC.

Polyamide fibres of (3.3. DTEX) 1mm are flock onto the adhesive using conventional flocking techniques. The fibres are flock onto the adhesive to produce a desired motif or badge on the polyvinylchloride base film. In the case of a multicoloured motif or badge the fibres are flock onto the adhesive in a desired sequence using separate screens for each colour. The appliqu  thus formed is then treated, typically at 180°C for approximately three minutes to cure the adhesive and to ensure permanent adhesion of the flock fibres to the

base polyvinylchloride adhesive.

The sheet of flocked film material thus formed has a plurality of appliqu  badges or motifs spaced-apart therealong. This sheet is then cut up into individual appliqu s which may be applied to textiles or other substrates, after removal of the backing paper using conventional high frequency welding techniques. If an additional three dimensional effect is required a layer of polyurethane foam may be interposed between the PVC film and the fabric to which the appliqu  is to be attached. Referring to the drawings and initially to Fig. 1 there is illustrated an appliqu  according to the invention and indicated generally by the reference numeral 1. The appliqu  1 comprises a support layer 2 of paper material coated with a release agent. A PVC base layer 3, which is typically 0.15 to 0.3 mm thick is applied, for example in a liquid form, onto the paper support sheet 2. An adhesive 4 which is compatible with the PVC sheet and with polyamide flock fibres 5 is then applied onto the PVC sheet 3 through a screen 20. The adhesive is a plasticized polyvinyl chloride based adhesive, made up of a PVC resin, with an appropriate plasticizer blend and corresponding curing agents and stabilizer.

The polyamide flock fibres 5 are typically 1 mm (3.3. DTEX) and are electrostatically flock onto one or more colours, in sequence, onto the pattern of the adhesive 4. The fibres are flock onto the adhesive using a screen to achieve a desired motif or badge. In the case of a multicoloured badge or motif the fibres are applied sequentially through different screens for each colour fibre. In the particular case illustrated there are two different coloured flock fibres identified as 5(a) and 5(b) which are flock in sequence and in register with one another through separate screens 21, 22 respectively.

After flocking in sheet form and heat curing, each sheet is cut up into individual appliqu s.

Referring to Fig. 2 to apply an appliqu  produced as described above, the paper base layer 2 is peeled off and the PVC sheet 3 is placed directly onto a textile fabric 10. The PVC is welded to the fabric by conventional high frequency welding techniques using a metal die 13. Alternatively, a layer 12 of PVC foam material may be sandwiched between the textile substrate 10 and the PVC sheet 3 to achieve a three dimensional effect.

After welding with the metal die 13, the excess parts of the PVC sheet are removed by peeling leaving the desired appliqu  welded to the textile substrate 10.

The appliqu  according to the invention is readily formed and applied and has improved colour fastness and stability after repeated machine washings of the garment to which it is applied. Further, the appliqu  has superior textile properties to conventional appliqu s.

The use of polyamide fibres pre-dyed by conventional techniques gives the substantial advantages mentioned above. In addition, the fibres have improved light fastness, wet and dry rubbing fastness and improved abrasion resistance. The use of these fibres rep-

resents in particular a substantial improvement over fibres which are screen printed after application.

As a consequence of these advantages the appliqu s of the invention may be used in high specification applications such as in the motor vehicle industry. Con-

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recently in particular a substantial improvement over fibres which are screen printed after application.

As a consequence of these advantages the applicées of the invention may be used in high specification applications such as in the motor vehicle industry. Conventional applicées have not heretofore been used in such industries because of the disadvantages of conventional products and processes.

The invention is not limited to the embodiments hereinbefore described which may be varied in both construction and detail.

#### Claims

1. An applicé comprising :-

a base layer of plastic sheet material;

an adhesive applied to one side of the base layer;

and a layer of flocked fibres on the adhesive;

- characterised in that said layer of flocked fibres is a layer of dyed flock fibres which are flock onto the adhesive through a screen having openings for the flock fibres corresponding to at least a portion of a desired motif or pattern.

2. An applicé as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least two different coloured flock fibres are flock onto the adhesive.

3. An applicé as claimed in claim 2 wherein flock fibres of different colour are applied in sequential flocking steps.

4. An applicé as claimed in claim 2 or 3 wherein the fibres are flock onto the adhesive in a desired motif or pattern through separate screens.

5. An applicé as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the flock fibres are of synthetic fibre material, preferably of polyamide fibre, preferably (3.3 DTEX) 1mm.

6. An applicé as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the adhesive is applied to the base layer only in the region to which the flock fibres are to be flock.

7. An applicé as claimed in claim 6 wherein the adhesive is applied to the base layer through a screen.

8. An applicé as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the flock receiving adhesive is an adhesive which is compatible with both the flock fibres and

the base material, preferably the adhesive is compatible with both polyamide fibres and polyvinylchloride film material.

5 9. An applicé as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the base layer is of polyvinylchloride film

10. An applicé as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the applicé includes a support layer on which the base layer is supported.

11. An applicé as claimed in claim 10 wherein the base layer is peelably attached to the support layer, preferably the support layer is of stiff paper material.

12. A method of forming an applicé carrying a motif or badge to be applied to a fabric comprising the steps of :-

20 applying an adhesive to a base layer of plastic sheet material; and

25 flocking dyed flock fibres onto the adhesive through a screen having openings for the flock fibres corresponding to at least portion of a desired motif or pattern.

30 13. A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the are at least two different coloured flock fibres and the method includes flocking second colour flock fibres onto the adhesive to form a desired coloured motif.

35 14. A method as claimed in claim 12 or 13 wherein the adhesive is applied to the base layer only in the region to which the fibres are to be flock.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the adhesive is applied to the base layer through a screen.

40 16. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 15 wherein there are at least two different coloured flock fibres which are applied to the adhesive in sequential flocking steps.

45 17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the coloured flock fibres are flock onto the adhesive through separate screens.

50 18. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 17 including the step, prior to applying the adhesive, of providing a support layer for the plastic base layer.

55 19. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 18 including the step of curing the adhesive after application of the flock fibres.

20. A method of applying an applicé as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11 to a fabric support comprising the

step of :-

removing the support layer, if present, and welding the applique to the fabric support by high frequency welding.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20 including the step, prior to welding, of interposing a layer of foam or the like material between the base layer of the applique and the fabric support.

## Patentansprüche

1. Applikation umfassend: eine Grundsicht aus Kunststoffoliematerial, einen auf eine Seite der Grundsicht aufgetragenen Klebstoff und eine Schicht aufgeflockter Fasern auf dem Klebstoff, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß genannte Schicht aufgeflockter Fasern eine Schicht vorgefärbter Flockfasern ist, mit denen der Klebstoff durch ein Sieb mit Öffnungen für die Flockfasern, die mindestens einem Abschnitt eines gewünschten Motive oder Musters entsprechen, befolklt wird.
2. Applikation nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Klebstoff mit mindestens zwei verschiedenen farbigen Flockfasern befolklt wird.
3. Applikation nach Anspruch 2, wobei Flockfasern unterschiedlicher Farbe in sequentiellen Beflockungsschritten aufgetragen werden.
4. Applikation nach Anspruch 2 oder 3, wobei der Klebstoff durch getrennte Siebe in einem gewünschten Motiv oder Muster mit den Fasern befolklt wird.
5. Applikation nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Flockfasern aus Kunstfasermaterial, vorzugsweise aus Polyamidfaser, vorzugsweise (3.3 DTEX) 1 mm, sind.
6. Applikation nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei der Klebstoff nur in dem Bereich auf die Grundsicht aufgetragen wird, der mit den Flockfasern zu befolkeln ist.
7. Applikation nach Anspruch 6, wobei der Klebstoff durch ein Sieb auf die Grundsicht aufgetragen wird.
8. Applikation nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei der das Beflockmaterial aufnehmende Klebstoff ein Klebstoff ist, der sowohl mit den Flockfasern als auch mit dem Grundmaterial verträglich ist; vorzugsweise ist der Klebstoff sowohl mit Polyamidfasern als auch mit Polyvinylchloridoliematerial verträglich.

9. Applikation nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Grundsicht aus Polyvinylchloridoliematerial ist.
10. Applikation nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Applikation eine Trägerschicht aufweist, auf der die Grundsicht aufliegt.
11. Applikation nach Anspruch 10, wobei die Grundsicht abziehbar an der Trägerschicht angebracht ist, wobei die Trägerschicht vorzugsweise aus stattem Papiermaterial ist.
12. Verfahren zum Formen einer auf einem Gewebe aufzubringenden, ein Motiv oder Emblem tragenden Applikation umfassend die folgenden Schritte: Auftragen eines Klebstoffs auf eine Grundsicht aus Kunststoffoliematerial und Beflocken des Klebstoffs mit vorgefärbten Flockfasern durch ein Sieb mit Öffnungen für die Flockfasern, die mindestens einem Abschnitt eines gewünschten Motive oder Musters entsprechen.
13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 12, wobei es mindestens zwei verschiedene farbige Flockfasern gibt und das Verfahren die Beflockung des Klebstoffs mit zweien Farbflockfasern zum Bilden eines gewünschten farbigen Motive aufweist.
14. Verfahren nach Anspruch 12 oder 13, wobei der Klebstoff nur in dem Bereich, der mit den Fasern zu befolkeln ist, auf die Grundsicht aufgetragen wird.
15. Verfahren nach Anspruch 14, wobei der Klebstoff durch ein Sieb auf die Grundsicht aufgetragen wird.
16. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 12 bis 15, wobei es mindestens zwei verschiedene farbige Flockfasern gibt, die in sequentiellen Beflockungsschritten auf den Klebstoff aufgebracht werden.
17. Verfahren nach Anspruch 16, wobei der Klebstoff durch getrennte Siebe mit den farbigen Flockfasern befolklt wird.
18. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 12 bis 17 einschließlich dem Schritt, vor dem Auftragen des Klebstoffs, des Vorsehens einer Trägerschicht über die Kunststoffgrundsicht.
19. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 12 bis 18 einschließlich dem Schritt des Aushärtens des Klebstoffs nach dem Auftragen der Flockfasern.
20. Verfahren zum Anbringen einer Applikation nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 11 auf einem Gewebeträger.

ger, umfassend den Schritt des Entfernen der Träger, umfassend den Schritt des Entfernen der Träger, wenn vorhanden, und Aufschweißen der Applikation auf den Gewebeträger durch Schweißen mit Hochfrequenz.

21. Verfahren nach Anspruch 20 einschließlich dem Schritt, vor dem Schweißen, des Zwischenlegens einer Schicht aus Schaumstoff oder dergleichen zwischen der Grundsicht der Applikation und dem Gewebeträger.

#### Revendications

1. Appliqu茅 comprenant:

une couche de base d'une mati猫re plastique en feuilles;

un adh茅sif appliqu茅 sur un c猫t茅 de la couche de base; et une couche de fibres floqu茅es sur l'adh茅sif;

caract茅ris茅 en ce que ladite couche de fibres floqu茅es est une couche de fibres de floc prot茅in茅es qui sont floqu茅es sur l'adh茅sif 脿 travers un cadre qui pr茅sente des ouvertures destin茅es aux fibres de floc correspondant 脿 au moins une partie d'un motif ou dessin d茅sir茅.

2. Appliqu茅 tel que revendiqu茅 脿 la revendication 1, dans lequel des fibres de floc d'au moins deux couleurs diff茅rentes sont floqu茅es sur l'adh茅sif.

3. Appliqu茅 tel que revendiqu茅 脿 la revendication 2, dans lequel les fibres de floc de couleurs diff茅rentes sont appliqu茅es dans des 脘apes de floage s茅quentielles.

4. Appliqu茅 tel que revendiqu茅 脿 la revendication 2 ou 3, dans lequel les fibres sont floqu茅es sur l'adh茅sif selon un motif ou dessin d茅sir茅 脿 travers des cadres s茅par茅s.

5. Appliqu茅 tel que revendiqu茅 dans l'une quelconque des revendications pr茅c茅dentes, dans lequel les fibres de floc sont en une mati猫re de fibre synth茅tique, de pr茅f茅rence une fibre de polyamide, de pr茅f茅rence de 1 mm (3,3 DTEX).

6. Appliqu茅 tel que revendiqu茅 dans l'une quelconque des revendications pr茅c茅dentes, dans lequel l'adh茅sif est appliqu茅 sur la couche de base seulement dans la r猫gion sur laquelle les fibres de floc doivent 脹tre floqu茅es.

7. Appliqu茅 tel que revendiqu茅 脿 la revendication 6, dans lequel l'adh茅sif est appliqu茅 sur la couche de

base 脿 travers un cadre.

8. Appliqu茅 tel que revendiqu茅 dans l'une quelconque des revendications pr茅c茅dentes, dans lequel l'adh茅sif recevant le floc est un adh茅sif qui est compatible 脿 la fois avec les fibres de floc et avec la mati猫re de base, de pr茅f茅rence l'adh茅sif est compatible 脿 la fois avec les fibres de polyamide et avec une mati猫re de film de polyvinylchlorure.

9. Appliqu茅 tel que revendiqu茅 dans l'une quelconque des revendications pr茅c茅dentes, dans lequel la couche de base est un film de polyvinylchlorure.

10. Appliqu茅 tel que revendiqu茅 dans l'une quelconque des revendications pr茅c茅dentes, dans lequel l'appliqu茅 comporte une couche de support sur lequel la couche de base est support茅e.

11. Appliqu茅 tel que revendiqu茅 脿 la revendication 10, dans lequel la couche de base est fix茅e de mani猫re d茅coupl茅e sur la couche de support, de pr茅f茅rence la couche de support est une mati猫re de papier rigide.

12. Proc茅d茅 de formation d'un appliqu茅 portant un motif ou un badge 脿 appliquer sur un lieu comprenant les 脘apes:

d'application d'un adh茅sif sur une couche de base d'une mati猫re plastique en feuilles; et

de floage de fibres de floc prot茅in茅es sur l'adh茅sif 脿 travers un cadre qui pr茅sente des ouvertures destin茅es aux fibres de floc correspondant 脿 au moins une partie d'un motif ou dessin d茅sir茅.

13. Proc茅d茅 tel que revendiqu茅 脿 la revendication 12, dans lequel il existe des fibres de floc d'au moins deux couleurs diff茅rentes et le proc茅d茅 comporte le floage de fibres de floc d'une deuxi猫me couleur sur l'adh茅sif pour former un motif color茅 d茅sir茅.

14. Proc茅d茅 tel que revendiqu茅 脿 la revendication 12 ou 13, dans lequel l'adh茅sif est appliqu茅 sur la couche de base uniquement dans la r猫gion sur laquelle les fibres doivent 脹tre floqu茅es.

15. Proc茅d茅 tel que revendiqu茅 脿 la revendication 14, dans lequel l'adh茅sif est appliqu茅 sur la couche de base 脿 travers un cadre.

16. Proc茅d茅 tel que revendiqu茅 dans l'une quelconque des revendications 12 脿 15, dans lequel il existe des fibres de floc d'au moins deux couleurs diff茅rentes qui sont appliqu茅es sur l'adh茅sif dans des 脘apes de floage s茅quentielles.

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17. Procédé tel que revendiqué à la revendication 16, dans lequel les fibres de filc colorées sont fixées sur l'adhésif à travers des cadres séparés.
18. Procédé tel que revendiqué dans l'une quelconque des revendications 12 à 17, comportant l'étape, avant l'application de l'adhésif, de fourniture d'une couche de support pour la couche de base en plastique.
19. Procédé tel que revendiqué dans l'une quelconque des revendications 12 à 18, comportant l'étape de cuisson de l'adhésif après l'application des fibres de filc.
20. Procédé d'application d'un appliqués tel que revendiqué dans l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 11 sur un support de tissu se composant de l'étape:- de retrait de la couche de support, si elle existe, et de soudure de l'appliqués au support de tissu par soudage à haute fréquence.
21. Procédé tel que revendiqué à la revendication 20, comportant l'étape, avant le soudage, d'interposition d'une couche de mousse ou de matériau semblable entre la couche de base de l'appliqués et le support de tissu.

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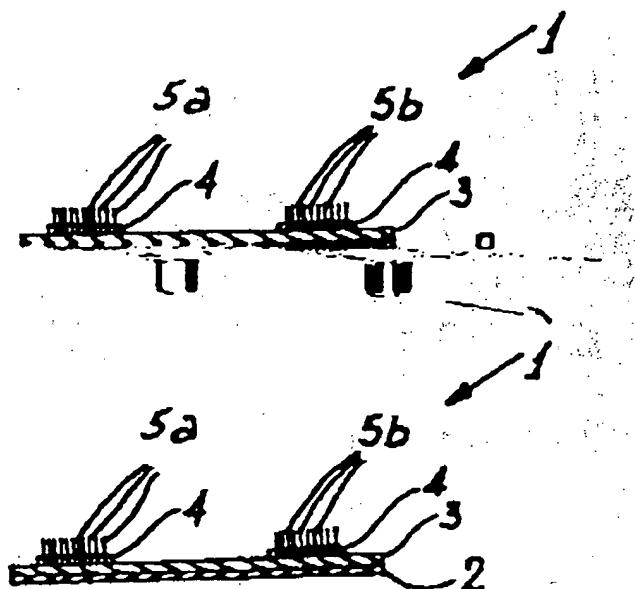
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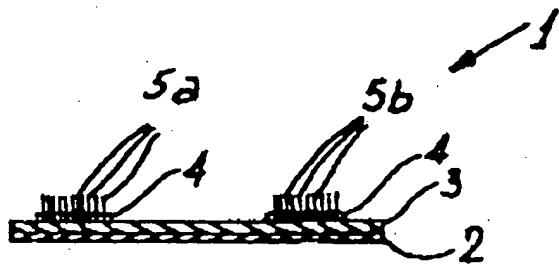


Fig. 1

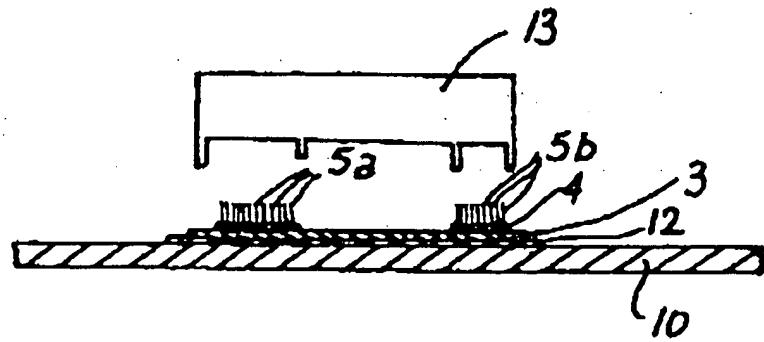


Fig. 2

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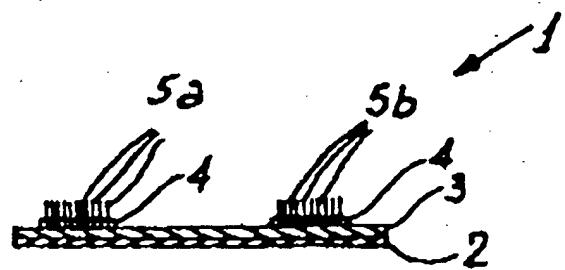


Fig. 1

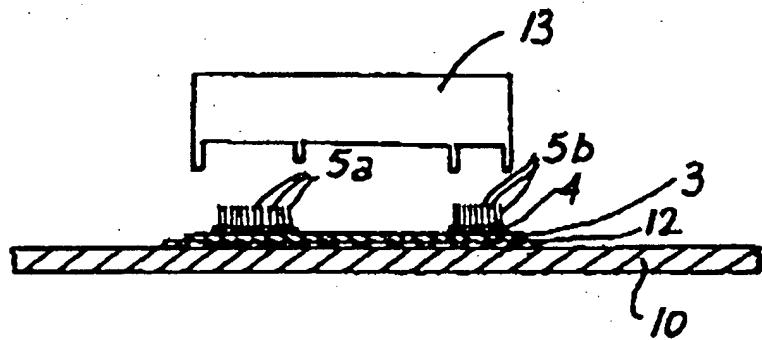


Fig. 2

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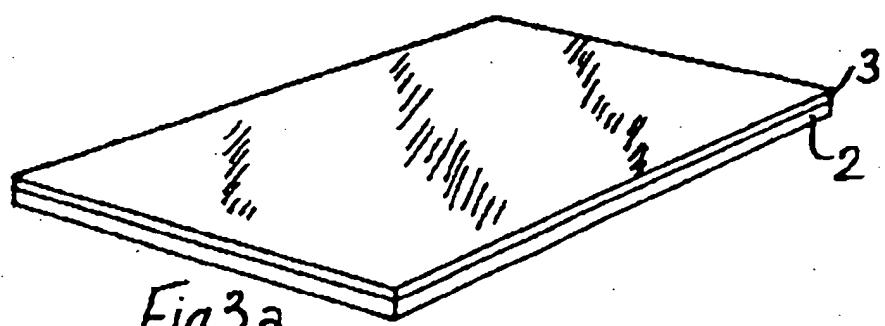


Fig. 3a

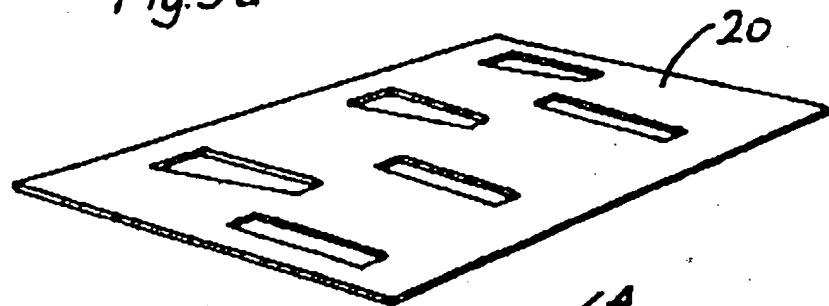


Fig. 3b

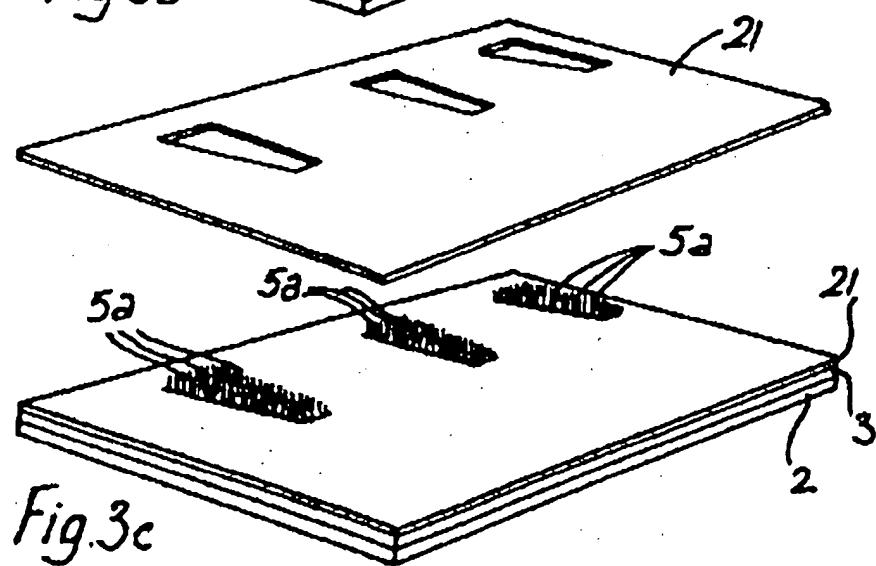
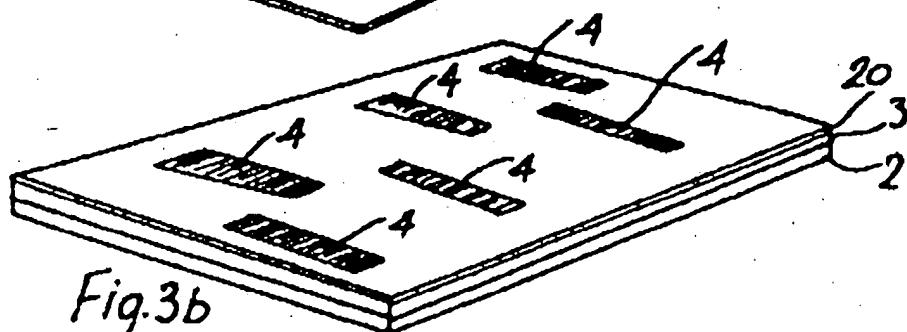


Fig. 3c

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